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*For Immediate Release...*

## *Corrections News*

April 28, 2008

### **Missouri's Volunteers in Corrections Recognized During National Volunteers Week - April 27 – May 3**

The Missouri Department of Corrections is commemorating Volunteers in Corrections during National Volunteers Week, which ends Saturday.

More than 1,890 correctional volunteers assisted the Department during 2007. In all, Volunteers in Corrections (VIC's) provided 73,569 hours of volunteer service in both the Division of Adult Institutions and Probation & Parole. Volunteer service in 2007 is valued at \$19.51 per hour by the Independent Sector. Based on that figure, Missouri's Volunteers in Corrections provided the equivalent of more than \$1,435,000 in volunteer services last year.

"We appreciate the hard work of our Volunteers in Corrections," said Department Director Larry Crawford. "Volunteers allow offenders success through additional programs. They serve as a vital link to the community in conjunction with the Missouri Reentry Process, which assists men and women returning to the community following their incarceration. They are to be commended for their contribution to public safety and for the positive effect they have in the lives of the offenders."

Volunteers can serve in state prisons and probation and parole offices. They also help institutional chaplains in religious programming, pastoral counseling, and provide spiritual guidance.

"The dedication of our Volunteers in Corrections is both admirable and inspiring. These individuals are to be recognized and applauded for their commitment to make a difference in the lives of offenders and for the positive impact they have on our communities," said Supervisor of Volunteer Services Melissa Massman.

For information about joining the Department as a VIC, call Supervisor of Volunteer Services Melissa Massman at (573) 526-6491 or Supervisor of Religious/Spiritual Programming Douglas Worsham at (573) 526-6489.

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